

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the subject application are respectfully requested in light of the amendments above and the comments which follow.

As correctly noted in the Office Action Summary, claims 1-21 were pending. By the present response, claims 2-5, 10-13, 16-19 and 21 have been amended, and claims 1, 14 and 20 canceled to rewrite claims 5, 17 and 21 as independent claims and to make the respective claims dependent therefrom. Thus, upon entry of the present response, claims 2-13, 15-19 and 21 remain pending and await further consideration on the merits.

Support for the foregoing amendments can be found, for example, in at least the following locations in the original disclosure: the original claims.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in objected claims 5-9, 11, 13, 17-19 and 21. By the present response, claims 5, 17 and 21 have been written in independent form and are allowable. All of the other pending claims depend from allowable claims 5, 17 or 21 and are therefore considered allowable.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,083,551 to St. Denis (hereafter "*St. Denis*") on the grounds set forth in paragraph 2 of the Official Action.

Claims 1-4, 14, 15 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,810,345 to Lehmann et al. (hereafter "*Lehmann et al.*") on the grounds set forth in paragraph 3 of the Official Action.

The rejections are moot in view of the amendments wherein the rejected claims now depend from an allowable claim.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 12, 14 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,615,871 to Kleinhenn (hereafter "*Kleinhenn*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,083,551 to St. Denis (hereafter "*St. Denis*") on the grounds set forth in paragraph 4 of the Official Action. The rejections are moot in view of the amendments wherein the rejected claims depend from an allowable claim.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel that any issues remain, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted so that any such issues may be adequately addressed and prosecution of the instant application expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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